

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

2:22-cr-049(1)

JUDGE MICHAEL H. WATSON

ALEXIS GEORGE

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Defendant Alexis George previously pleaded not guilty to an *Indictment* charging her with conspiracy to commit wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 (Count 1) and eight counts of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 2 (Counts 2 through 9). *Indictment*, ECF No. 3. The *Indictment* also includes a forfeiture provision against this defendant. *Id.* The United States and defendant thereafter entered into a *Plea Agreement*, ECF 87,<sup>1</sup> executed pursuant to the provisions of Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, whereby defendant agreed to enter a plea of guilty to Count 1. On March 22, 2023, defendant, accompanied by her counsel, personally appeared at a change of plea proceeding.

Defendant consented, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(3), to enter a guilty plea before a Magistrate Judge. *See United States v. Cukaj*, 25 Fed.Appx. 290, 291(6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001) (Magistrate Judge may accept a guilty plea with the express consent of the defendant and where no objection to the report and recommendation is filed).

During the plea proceeding, the undersigned observed the appearance and responsiveness of defendant in answering questions. Based on that observation, the undersigned is satisfied that, at the time she entered her guilty plea, defendant was in full possession of

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<sup>1</sup> The *Plea Agreement* includes an appellate waiver provision that preserves only certain claims for appeal, collateral challenge, or motion for reduction of sentence. In the *Plea Agreement*, defendant also agreed to the forfeiture provision in the *Indictment* (although the *Plea Agreement* mistakenly refers at one point to a slightly different amount). She also agreed to a restitution obligation.

her faculties, was not suffering from any apparent physical or mental illness and was not under the influence of narcotics, other drugs, or alcohol.

Prior to accepting defendant's plea, the undersigned addressed defendant personally and in open court and determined her competence to plead. Based on the observations of the undersigned, defendant understands the nature and meaning of the charges in the *Indictment* and the consequences of her plea of guilty to Count 1. Defendant was also addressed personally and in open court and advised of each of the rights referred to in Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Having engaged in the colloquy required by Rule 11, the Court concludes that defendant's plea is voluntary. Defendant acknowledged that the *Plea Agreement* signed by her, her former attorney, and the attorney for the United States and filed on September 4, 2022, represents the only promises made by anyone regarding the charges in the *Indictment*.<sup>2</sup> Defendant was advised that the District Judge may accept or reject the *Plea Agreement* and that all sentencing terms will be determined by the District Judge. Defendant was further advised that, even if the District Judge refuses to accept any provision of the *Plea Agreement* not binding on the Court, or if the sentence imposed is more severe than the sentence that defendant expected, defendant may nevertheless not withdraw her guilty plea.

Defendant confirmed the accuracy of the statement of facts supporting the charge, which is attached to the *Plea Agreement*. She confirmed that she is pleading guilty to Count 1 of the *Indictment* because she is in fact guilty of that offense. The Court concludes that there is a factual basis for the plea.

The Court concludes that defendant's plea of guilty to Count 1 of the *Indictment* is knowingly and voluntarily made with understanding of

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<sup>2</sup> Defendant's former attorney, whose signature appears on the *Plea Agreement*, was granted leave to withdraw after the *Plea Agreement* was filed. Order, ECF No. 94. At the change of plea proceeding, defendant testified that she reviewed the *Plea Agreement* with her current attorney, with whom she is

the nature and meaning of the charges and of the consequences of the plea.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that defendant's guilty plea to Count 1 of the *Indictment* be accepted. Decision on acceptance or rejection of the *Plea Agreement* was deferred for consideration by the District Judge after the preparation of a presentence investigation report.

In accordance with S.D. Ohio Crim. R. 32.1, and as expressly agreed to by defendant through counsel, a written presentence investigation report will be prepared by the United States Probation Office. Defendant will be asked to provide information; defendant's attorney may be present if defendant so wishes. Objections to the presentence report must be made in accordance with the rules of this Court.

If any party seeks review by the District Judge of this *Report and Recommendation*, that party may, within fourteen (14) days, file and serve on all parties objections to the *Report and Recommendation*, specifically designating this *Report and Recommendation*, and the part thereof in question, as well as the basis for objection thereto. 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1); F.R. Civ. P. 72(b). Response to objections must be filed within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy thereof. F.R. Civ. P. 72(b).

The parties are specifically advised that failure to object to the *Report and Recommendation* will result in the forfeiture of the right to *de novo* review by the District Judge and of the right to appeal the decision of the District Court adopting the *Report and Recommendation*. See *United States v. Wandahsega*, 924 F.3d 868, 878 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2019); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985).

March 22, 2023  
Date

s/ Norah McCann King  
Norah M<sup>c</sup>Cann King  
United States Magistrate Judge

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satisfied, and she expressly agreed to all the terms of the *Plea Agreement*.